



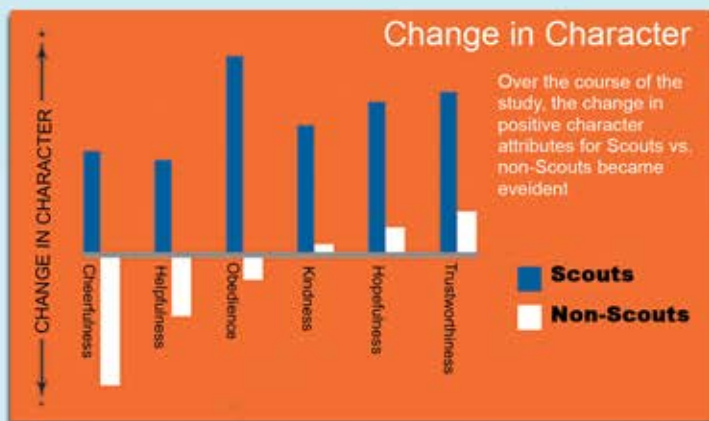
Tufts

UNIVERSITY

SCOUTING BUILDS CHARACTER

From the life-saving Scout stories you hear in the news to the firsthand Scouting testimonials parents share about their kids, we all believe that Scouting builds character and turns youth into leaders.

We all know Scouting's goal is to prepare young people for life, but does it really work? To answer this question Scouting was put to the test over the course of three years when a research team from Tufts University, lead by noted youth development expert Dr. Richard Lerner, worked to measure the character attributes of both Scouts and non-Scouts. The goal was to better understand character development in today's youth. The independent research studied a group of over 2,000 Cub Scouts and non-Scouts. During the next three years, researchers tracked individual changes in the boys and assessed when, and to what extent, character development was taking place. In the beginning, the two identical groups showed no significant difference in character attributes. They wanted to make sure that Scouting just didn't attract youth of higher character, but rather built youth of higher character. By the end of the study they showed just that ... with the character differences striking in several key areas:



As the chart shows, boys in Scouting reported significant increases in character attributes like cheerfulness, helpfulness, kindness, obedience, trustworthiness and hopeful future expectations. There were no significant increases reported among non-Scouts. Further, when asked what was most important to them, Scouts were much more likely than non-Scouts to choose **helping others** or **doing the right thing**.

In addition, youth who participated in both sports and Scouting were more likely to show these same positive values while those who only played sports did not. The Tufts study also showed that the longer and more involved a youth was in Scouting, the greater the positive affect on character development, including goal-setting, better grades, and a greater connection to nature.

The study definitively shows that Scouting has a positive affect on character development in youth.

In short, **Scouting Builds Character!**

- To learn more about Scouting, please visit: minsitrails.org
- To hear what Scout parents have to say, please visit: minsitrails.org/parents
- To learn more about the character research study, please visit: minsitrails.org/tufts

